

### DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Applicants' amendment filed on 01/31/2008.

**Independent Claim 1 has been amended** to include the limitation of now cancelled claim 2. **Claims 2, 20-28 and 30 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-19 and 29 are now pending** in the present application. The applicants' claim amendments are shown in ***bold and italics***, and the examiner's response to the amendments is shown in **bold** in this office action. **This Action is made FINAL.**

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**Claims 1, 8, 9, 18 and 29** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Parry (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0078963 A1)** in view of **Katz et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0140114 A1)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Parry describes a Ritz Camera® system at the website <http://www.ritzcamera.com>. When customers go to a Ritz Camera store to have their film developed, they are given a film roll ID and a password along with the developed film. Thereafter, the method described in claim 1 of storing and accessing a copy of digital content, located on a physical medium in possession of a user, on a server for subsequent access thereon by the user, is followed in the Ritz system (paragraph 0008), which also provides an option to use digital photos stored on a CD instead of a roll of film, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication link with the server (when the customer logs on to the Ritz home page at <http://www.ritzPIX.com>, the customer establishes a communication link with the Ritz server);

providing to the server over the communication link, a request to store a copy of the digital content on the server (this request is made at the local Ritz store, when the film roll or a CD is taken for storing photos on a server);

providing to the server over the communication link a user ID (when the user logs on to the server at <http://www.ritzPIX.com>, he or she has to enter a user ID and a password, after which their digital photographs can be uploaded to the server);

uploading the digital content from the physical medium to the server over the communication link (the user has two options; either have the local Ritz store personnel upload the digital contents for him or her, or the user may himself or herself upload the digital contents off the CD);

subsequent to the step of uploading the digital content, providing a request to the server to receive the digital content from the server (when the user wishes to view their photographs on the server, he or she logs on to the server at <http://www.ritzPIX.com>, and enters a user ID and a password, after which the photographs are displayed);

subsequent to or simultaneous with the step of providing the request to receive the digital content, providing to the server the user ID (each time the user logs on to the server, he or she has to provide the user ID and the password); and

receiving the digital content from the server only after performing the above step (when the user wishes to view their photographs on the server, he or she logs on to the server

at <http://www.ritzPIX.com>, and enters a user ID and a password, after which the photographs are displayed).

Although, the Ritz website does not specifically require a user to make a direct request in order to store a copy of the digital content on the server (in case of a roll of film), as it can be done by the local store employees on behalf of the user, Parry describes his system of automatic posting of digital images, wherein a user does make a request to upload and automatically post digital images to a server site (Fig. 1, that shows a sender 24, using a computer system 30 to request to print and simultaneously post the digital camera image 22 to a website 32, via a network communication link 20; paragraph 0023 discloses the same details, summarizing the process in lines 19-22).

However, Parry does not disclose ***compressing the digital content prior to performing the step of uploading the digital content.***

In the same field of endeavor, Katz et al. show and disclose the claimed method including ***compressing the digital content prior to performing the step of uploading the digital content*** (Fig. 2 that shows Authoring System 280 uploading scrambled and compressed digital information files 262 to the library server 260; paragraph 0030, lines 1-6 disclose that the Authoring system is used to edit, index, compress, scramble, segment and catalog digital information content into files stored on mass storage media 241, these actions being performed prior to uploading the content onto the server).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to compress the digital content prior to uploading it, as

taught by Katz et al. in the method of Parry, so as to be able to store digital content more efficiently, since a compressed digital content file occupies a small fraction of the disc storage than an uncompressed file.

Consider **claim 8**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., further shows and discloses a method wherein the communication link is established over a computer network (in Parry reference, Fig. 1, computer system 30 interfacing via sender interface 26 to a network communication link 20; paragraph 0023 that discloses the same details).

Consider **claim 9**, and **as it applies to claim 8 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., further shows and discloses a method wherein the computer network is the Internet (in Parry reference, Fig. 1, network communication link 20 shown with an interface to the Internet 34; paragraph 0024 that discloses the same details).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Parry discloses the claimed method, except the step of receiving digital content comprises the step of receiving only a segment of the digital content and further comprising the step of providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content.

In the same field of endeavor, Katz et al., disclose a method wherein the step of receiving digital content comprises the step of receiving only a segment of the digital

content and further comprising the step of providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content (Fig. 2, Segment Download Data block 222 and Segment Navigation Data block 218; paragraph 0035, lines 1-6 and paragraph 0041, lines 7-16 that disclose the details for segmented download of digital contents; also paragraph 0037, lines 28-36 that disclose providing preview clips before sending the entire digital content; **paragraph 0037, lines 15-21 which further disclose that upon receiving such a client request, the library server 260 uses authorization server 270 to authenticate the request with client information 272 that includes client identifiers (userids), thereby disclosing providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content).**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to receive only a segment of the digital content and provide to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content, as taught by Katz et al., in the method of Parry, so as to provide the user an option to receive only certain desired segments instead of the full complement of the digital content.

Consider **claim 29**, Parry describes a Ritz Camera® system at the website <http://www.ritzcamera.com>. When customers go to a Ritz Camera store to have their film developed, they are given a film roll ID and a password along with the developed film. Thereafter, the method described in claim 29 of storing and downloading a

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compressed copy of digital content to a subscriber in possession of a physical medium on which an uncompressed copy of the digital content is located, is followed in the Ritz system (paragraph 0008), which also provides an option to use digital photos stored on a CD instead of a roll of film, for storing on a server, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to store a copy of digital content from the subscriber over a communication link (this request is made at the local Ritz Camera store, when a film roll is taken, or by a user when a CD is used to directly upload photos on a server using the Internet as a communication link);

receiving over the communication link a subscriber ID (when the user logs on to the server at <http://www.ritzPIX.com>, he or she has to enter a user ID and a password, after which their digital photographs can be uploaded to the server);

receiving over the communication link a compressed copy of the digital content from the physical medium in the possession of the subscriber (the user has two options; either have the local Ritz store personnel upload the digital contents for him or her, or the user may himself or herself upload the digital contents off a CD);

subsequent to the step of receiving the compressed copy of the digital content, receiving a request to download the digital content to the subscriber (when the user wishes to view their photographs on the server, he or she logs on to the server at <http://www.ritzPIX.com>, and enters a user ID and a password, after which the photographs are displayed and may be downloaded);

subsequent to or simultaneous with the step of receiving the request to receive the digital content, receiving the subscriber ID (each time the user logs on to the server, he or she has to provide the user ID and the password); and  
providing the compressed copy of the digital content to the subscriber over the communication link (when the user wishes to view or download the photographs on the server, he or she logs on to the server at <http://www.ritzPIX.com>, and enters a user ID and a password, after which the photographs are displayed and may be downloaded).

Although, the Ritz website does not specifically require a user to make a direct request in order to store a copy of the digital content on the server (in case of a roll of film), as it can be done by the local store employees on behalf of the user, Parry describes his system of automatic posting of digital images, wherein a user does make a request to upload and automatically post digital images to a server site (Fig. 1, that shows a sender 24, using a computer system 30 to request to print and simultaneously post the digital camera image 22 to a website 32, via a network communication link 20; paragraph 0023 discloses the same details, summarizing the process in lines 19-22).

However, Parry does not specifically disclose providing a compressed copy of the digital content for storing on the server.

In the same field of endeavor, Katz et al. show and disclose a method wherein executing the step of compressing the digital content prior to performing the step of uploading the digital content (Fig. 2 that shows Authoring system 280 uploading compressed digital information files 262 to the library server 260; paragraph 0030, lines 1-6 disclose the same details).



Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to compress the digital content prior to uploading it, as taught by Katz et al. in the method of Parry, so as to be able to store digital content more efficiently, since a compressed digital content file occupies a small fraction of the disc storage than an uncompressed file.

**Claims 3-7, 10-12, and 17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Parry (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0078963 A1)** in view of **Katz et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0140114 A1)** and further in view of **de Jong (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0083391 A1)**.

Consider **claim 3**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein the digital content is received by a rendering device.

In the same field of endeavor, de Jong shows and discloses a method wherein the digital content is received by a rendering device (Fig. 3 that shows several rendering devices such as a PDA, a laptop, and a mobile phone; paragraph 0118 in addition lists a MP3 player or a game console etc.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a rendering device for receiving to play back or view the digital contents, as taught by de Jong in the method of Parry, as modified by

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Katz et al., so as to be able to play back or view the digital contents received from the server.

Consider **claim 4**, and **as it applies to claim 3 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein said rendering device is a portable digital content player.

In the same field of endeavor, de Jong shows and discloses a method wherein said rendering device is a portable digital content player (paragraph 0118 that lists a MP3 player, which is a portable digital content player).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a portable digital content player as a rendering device for receiving to play back the digital contents, as taught by de Jong in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., because of the popularity and widespread use of such devices.

Consider **claim 5**, and **as it applies to claim 3 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein said rendering device is an audio player.

In the same field of endeavor, de Jong shows and discloses a method wherein said rendering device is an audio player (paragraph 0118 that lists a MP3 player, which is an audio player).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an audio player as a rendering device for receiving to play back the digital contents, as taught by de Jong in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., because of the popularity and widespread use of such devices.

Consider **claim 6**, and **as it applies to claim 3 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein said rendering device is an audio/visual player.

In the same field of endeavor, de Jong shows and discloses a method wherein said rendering device is an audio/visual player (paragraph 0118 that lists a game console, which is an audio/visual player).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an audio/visual player as a rendering device for receiving to play back the digital contents, as taught by de Jong in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., because of the popularity and widespread use of such devices.

Consider **claim 7**, and **as it applies to claim 3 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., as modified by de Jong, further shows and discloses the claimed method wherein said rendering device is a printing apparatus (in Parry reference, Figs. 1 and 3, sender printer block 18; paragraph 0029 that describes the sender printer both as an

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automated posting interface to the server and as a rendering device to print the digital image).

Consider **claim 10**, and **as it applies to claim 3 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein the digital content is received by the rendering device over a wireless transmission link.

In the same field of endeavor, de Jong shows and discloses a method wherein the digital content is received by the rendering device over a wireless transmission link (Fig. 3, Network block 310, connecting to wireless mobile phone, a laptop, and a PDA; paragraph 0121 that lists a VIM (Wireless Interface Module) in the rendering device interfacing with the network 310).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to receive the digital content by a rendering device over a wireless transmission link, as taught by de Jong in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., so that the user has the flexibility of accessing digital contents from anywhere.

Consider **claim 11**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein the digital content includes audio content.

In the same field of endeavor, de Jong shows and discloses a method wherein the digital content includes audio content (paragraph 0131 that lists a MP3 player, which is an digital audio player, as a rendering device for digital content delivery).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include audio content as a part of the digital contents delivery, as taught by de Jong in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., because of the popularity and widespread use of digital audio content for music and radio programs.

Consider **claim 12**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein the digital content includes video content.

In the same field of endeavor, de Jong shows and discloses a method wherein the digital content includes video content (paragraph 0131 that lists a laptop PC and a game console, both of which can play digital video content, as a rendering device for digital video content delivery).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include video content as a part of the digital contents delivery, as taught by de Jong in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., because of the popularity and widespread use of digital video content for DVD movies and games.

Consider **claim 17**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein the user ID comprises biometric data.

In the same field of endeavor, de Jong shows and discloses a method wherein the user ID comprises biometric data (Fig. 5, user device 500; paragraph 0135, lines 5-7 which disclose that user authentication data is provided by user device 500 in the form of a password, PIN, biometric data, or the like).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide user ID in the form of biometric data, as taught by de Jong, in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., so as to provide instant identification for recognizing the user as the authorized owner of the digital content.

**Claims 13-16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Parry (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0078963 A1)** in view of **Katz et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0140114 A1)** and further in view of **Hendrick (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,792,464 B2)**.

Consider **claims 13-14**, and **as they apply to claim 1 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein the user ID is provided from an IC chip.

In the same field of endeavor, Hendrick discloses a method wherein the user ID is provided from an IC chip (column 1, lines 19-21 that describe use of a smart card with an embedded microchip that stores user's profile; column 7, lines 6-8 which disclose that a smart card reader is adapted to read the login (user ID) and password information contained on the smart card).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide user ID from an IC chip, as taught by Hendrick, in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., so as to provide an automated identification by which to recognize the user as the real owner of the digital content.

Consider **claim 15**, and **as it applies to claim 13 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein said IC chip is a non-contact IC card.

In the same field of endeavor, Hendrick discloses a method wherein the user ID is provided from a non-contact IC card (column 1, lines 39-44 which disclose that smart cards can be of two types: "contact smart cards" (using ISO 7816 Interface) and "contact-less smart cards" (using RFID chips and ISO 15693 Interface) for identification purposes, such as user ID detection).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide user ID from a non-contact IC card, as taught by Hendrick, in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., so as to provide

instant, non-contact proximity identification to recognize the user as the real owner of the digital content.

Consider **claim 16**, and **as it applies to claim 14 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except wherein said IC chip is a non-contact IC card.

In the same field of endeavor, Hendrick discloses a method wherein the user ID is provided from a non-contact IC card (column 1, lines 39-44 which disclose that smart cards can be of two types: "contact smart cards" (using ISO 7816 Interface) and "contact-less smart cards" (using RFID chips and ISO 15693 Interface) for identification purposes, such as user ID detection).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide user ID from a non-contact IC card, as taught by Hendrick, in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., so as to provide instant, non-contact proximity identification to recognize the user as the real owner of the digital content.

**Claim 18** is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Parry (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0078963 A1)** in view of **Katz et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0140114 A1)** and further in view of **Simpson et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0184335 A1)**.



Consider **claim 18**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Parry, as modified by Katz et al., discloses the claimed method, except the step of receiving digital content comprises the step of receiving only a segment of the digital content and further comprising the step of providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content.

In the same field of endeavor, Simpson et al., disclose a method wherein the step of receiving digital content comprises the step of receiving only a segment of the digital content and further comprising the step of providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content (Figs. 1 and 6; paragraphs 0032-0033, and paragraph 0049 that disclose an Extension block 30 providing User Info 32 (user ID) before receiving the digital content; in Fig. 6, a thumbnail preview of the digital camera's contents as an initial segment with a checkbox under each thumbnail image to either select or skip receiving, as a subsequent segment, the digital image corresponding to the thumbnail shown).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to receive only a segment of the digital content and provide to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content, as taught by Simpson et al., in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al., so as to provide the user a preview option with means to select what the user really desires to receive of the full complement of the digital content.

**Claim 19** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Parry (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0078963 A1)** in view of **Katz et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0140114 A1)** and further in view of **Hendrick (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,792,464 B2)** and further in view of **Simpson et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0184335 A1)**.

Consider **claim 19**, and as it applies to **claim 14** above, Parry as modified by Katz et al. and Hendrick, discloses the claimed method, except the step of receiving digital content comprises the step of receiving only a segment of the digital content and further comprising the step of providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content.

In the same field of endeavor, Simpson et al. show and disclose a method wherein the step of receiving digital content comprises the step of receiving only a segment of the digital content and further comprising the step of providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content (Figs. 1 and 6; paragraphs 0032-0033, and paragraph 0049 that disclose an Extension block 30 providing User Info 32 (user ID) before receiving the digital content; in Fig. 6, a thumbnail preview of the digital camera's contents as an initial segment with a checkbox under each thumbnail image to either select or skip receiving, as a subsequent segment, the digital image corresponding to the thumbnail shown).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to receive only a segment of the digital content and

provide to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content, as taught by Simpson et al., in the method of Parry, as modified by Katz et al. and Hendrick, so as to provide the user a preview option with means to select what the user really desires to receive of the full complement of the digital content.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1, 29 and 18** have been considered but are not persuasive.

Consider amended **claim 1**. The applicants argue that the combination of Parry and Katz et al. references cited by the examiner does not teach the claim element "method of storing and accessing a copy of digital content located on a physical medium in possession of a user...". The examiner respectfully disagrees with this argument. In the cited reference of Parry (in paragraph 0008), a user in possession of a roll of film or a digital memory card with stored images does correspond to a user in possession of a physical medium with digital contents stored on it. Furthermore, in Katz et al. reference (paragraph 0030), the Authoring system 280 is used to edit, index, **compress**, scramble, segment and catalog digital information content **before uploading** it to the Library Server 260, as shown in Fig. 2. The **arguments for claim 29 are similar and need no response**.

Consider **claim 18**. The applicants argue that the cited reference of Katz et al. does not teach the claim element "providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content". Again, the examiner begs to differ. Lines

15-21 in the cited paragraph 0037 of Katz et al. reference, disclose that the authentication server 270 is used to verify the client information 272 that includes client identifiers (userids), before providing access to subsequent segments of the digital content.

Finally, the applicants argue that Katz et al. reference does not teach that "digital content, located on a physical medium in possession of a user, is compressed prior to being uploaded to a server". In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In response, the examiner would like to clarify that for a 103 rejection, the examiner has not relied upon Katz et al. to teach the claim elements already taught (e.g. digital content, located on a physical medium in possession of a user) by the primary reference of Parry, but only those elements (e.g. digital content is compressed prior to being uploaded to a server) that the primary reference does not teach. Therefore, the examiner has determined that **claims 1, 3-19 and 29 are not allowable, and remain rejected.**

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**Hand-delivered responses** should be brought to

Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kishin G. Belani whose telephone number is (571) 270-1768. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-0800.

*Kishin G. Belani*

K.G.B./kgb

April 8, 2008

/Kenny S Lin/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2152